2: Gamble S-5 (1926-1933)1954 AF12 North China AF12

to the younger members of the family and kotow to the elder members. The bow was more and more taking the place of the kotow.

Everyone in China is one year older on New Year's Day.

On New Year's some families endeavored to foretell the weather for the coming year. On New Year's eve they put twelve white beans into small holes cut into a wheat stalk that had been split in half. The wheat straw was then tied together with a cord and put into the water jar, where it was left over night. When it was taken out, the next morning, it was opened and the beans were examined. If any of the beans were found to be soaked with water it was believed that the corresponding month of the year would have a heavy rainfall. Dry beans were thought to foretell months with little rainfall.

Following New Year's day was the time for visits with friends and relatives who lived at a distance. A bride was regularly invited to return then to her home for a visit that would last beyond the fifteenth of the month.

All sorts of games were enjoyed during the New Year season. In many villages, it was a time when there was a great deal of gambling. Officially, there was a law against gambling with the penalty running as high as a fine of $100 or $200. It generally had been customary for this restriction to be greatly relaxed, if not entirely removed, for all or part of the New Year's holiday. In some cases, the time of relaxation was fixed by the magistrate, sometimes by the village heads. One village might have ten days of freedom while another nearby village had only five days. In Chai Ch'eng no gambling was allowed at any time.

The New Year season ended with the Lantern Festival, which was celebrated on the 14th and 15th of the first month. The dragon lanterns were often brought out and carried through a series of dances for the enjoyment of the people. Athletic groups gave exhibitions and yang ke, planting songs, were often given on a stage.

On the 15th of the first month the women and girls wore cedar twigs in their hair to help them avoid lice.

On the 16th of the first month, the first working day of the year, it was customary for employers to provide a feast for their workers so that they might celebrate together.

Hair cutting was generally not done during the first month as, done at that time, it was thought to bring bad luck to one's maternal uncle.

7: Gamble S-5 (1926-1927) 1933 AF12 North China AF12

a month for one-half the income groups. The maximum was only 95 cents per month.

It has been interesting to note the many occasions on which the Chinese give gifts to friends and relatives. The following were all mentioned in the accounts: New Year's, birthdays, betrothals, weddings; when a three-day-old baby was given its first bath, when the baby was a month old; moving from one house to another; funerals, anniversary of death, reinterment. Some of the gifts were paper or cloth scrolls, artificial flowers, fruit, cloth, toys for the children, but a majority were gifts of money. The expenses connected with any special occasion are usually relatively large. Few families have any large surplus on which they can draw, and borrowing money means heavy interest charges. By giving money the Chinese spread somewhat the burden of the expenses. In some of the wedding and funeral accounts given in Chapter X, the amount of the gifts received was even more than the total expenditure. Most families keep a careful record of these gifts, so that any return present may be commensurate with the one received. Money given for a wedding or birthday party ordinarily goes to the person giving the party, rather than to the bride or the guest of honor, though sometimes relatives and intimate friends give them money or a present, in addition to the money given for the feast.

Six families reported money won or lost by gambling, most of it at New Year's time. Ordinarily the amounts were small, $5 or less, but one family in the $35 group lost $15, and one in the $10 group lost $20. The latter family—a couple and two small children, the husband a rickshaw man—had an income of some $14 a month. In spite

7: Gamble S-5 (1926-1927) 1933 AF12 North China AF12

525 of losing $20 at New Year's, they were able to save $13 during the year. This they used to repay money they had borrowed, and even made a loan to another family. One family in the $200 group was given money by a group of gamblers who came to the house for their games. During a period of three months this amounted to $68.

Contributions

735 596 431 *511 The heading, "Contributions," *chuan hsiang,* includes money given to needy persons, gifts made to religious and charitable organizations, and amounts sent to parents or other relatives not members of the Peiping family group. House taxes originally were entered under this heading, as the Chinese families apparently consider them to be a form of contribution; but they were shifted from contributions to incidentals when the accounts were transcribed.

One hundred and thirty-nine families gave money to persons outside the family, or to organizations, or sent money to their relatives. Thirty-nine families reported sending money home. All had incomes of less than $100 a month. For 22 of these families, the money sent to relatives was the only contribution entry. One hundred and seventeen families gave money to people or organizations outside the family, but the amounts were relatively small. The money given to relatives amounted to 63.5 per cent of the total contribution expenditure; and was 86 per cent of the total for the families with incomes of less than $100 a month. The average total contributions, to family and others, varied, for the families reporting, from $4.10 for the $80 group and $4.55 for the $25 group, to $42 for the $90 group, and $52.65 for the $60